

society) with medical men who place their gratuitous services, at all hours of the night or day, at the service of the community! Mr. Napper's *rule of practice* indicates that he considers medical services rendered to charitable institutions as of no *pecuniary* value. We again ask: What are the grounds upon which medical men should do this work of the community gratis? EDITOR.]

#### MR. FOSTER AND THE LICENSE OF THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.

SIR,—It seems to me that Mr. Foster, in replying to the temperate remarks of your correspondent Δ, has, whilst denouncing the comments of the latter as "absurd", been singularly forgetful of the homely proverb, "Those who live in glass houses should never throw stones". I will not say that Mr. Foster does not draw his conclusions upon the strictly Baconian system, but I must confess that his method of reasoning appears to my mind to be rather of the Hibernian than of the Saxon type. In his letter, he confounds two very distinct questions; and, by presuming a reply to the first, fancies that he has answered the second. The two questions are these:—

1. Has a Licentiate of the College of Physicians any claim to the title of Doctor?

2. If he be called Doctor, has he, as a consequence, the right to affix to his signature the letters M.D.?

I conceive, sir, that it requires very slight powers of observation to perceive that an affirmative answer to the first question by *no means* involves a similar reply to the second.

I waive entirely the *exact* consideration of the first query, merely remarking that I can see no reason why the title of Dr. should not be afforded to apothecaries as well as to physicians, for the former proceed to their license in much the same manner as the latter; and that it is a strange circumstance that, although the number of those on the General Medical Council who possess degrees is exceeded by that of those who do not, the non-graduate (and, therefore, in this matter impartial) body has not recognised the quasi-claims of the Colleges of Physicians.

Language, as Mr. Foster is perhaps aware, is but a collection of sounds which represent ideas; each sound is associated with a certain notion; and hence, where there is confusion of these recognised symbols, there is confusion of ideas; just as, when money does not stand for true capital, there is, as it were, a political-economy Babel. If Mr. Foster will consult any recognised authority upon the applications of English words, he shall find that the word *degree*, besides its signification as the unit of a scale, was, on the institution of universities some centuries since, distinctly employed to designate the steps by which a student rose from an inferior to a fixed superior position. The process of advancement was termed *graduation*, and the resultant a *degree*. This degree was represented by the initial letters of its Latin name; and now-a-days, instead of saying that so-and-so is a Doctor of Medicine, we not infrequently remark that he possesses the degree of M.D. In the public mind, these letters are associated with a constant idea—to wit, that the individual possessing them has been educated in some university; and, with deplorably bad taste, it prefers a man who has come from an university, and is therefore well educated, to one who by a simpler and more utilitarian mode has become a physician.

By usage, then, the letters M.D. imply that the person to whose name they are affixed has come from an university; has passed *several severe* examinations, professional and non-professional; and has studied under distinguished men of science. How, then, knowing this, can any Licentiate of the College of Physicians be so

unscrupulous as to assume a position to which he has no claim? Why will he leave society under the impression that he has graduated, when he certainly has not done so in the accepted sense?

If it be allowable to attach to one's name the initial letters of one's calling (no matter what), how shall we discriminate between butchers' assistants and Bachelors of Arts, between Doctors of Divinity and donkey-dealers? I imagine that nothing shows more clearly the inferiority of the license of the College of Physicians to the *degree* of the University, than the struggle of those who have the former to be allowed to assume the *peculiar* title of the latter. I am, etc., ARISTOTLE.

February 1863.

[Our correspondent will, on consideration, find that he has not stated his case aright. An university education is not necessary now-a-days for the obtaining of a university degree. How many hundred Englishmen were a few weeks ago made Doctors off-hand at St. Andrew's? Moreover, the prefix of the title Dr. is no indication now-a-days, either with the profession or with the public, that the assumer of it possesses the degree of M.D. EDITOR.]

#### THE MEDICAL ACT.

SIR,—You, as the editor of our JOURNAL, upon the success of the last Medical Act, so thoroughly gave the Association the credit of it, that now, since it has been in operation long enough to test it by its fruits, you must by this time have lost some faith in it as a means of preventing unregistered men from practising medicine and surgery. My own humble opinion is, now that the Apothecaries' Company have abandoned the field, and do not enforce their fine in courts of law, there is no legal standing for one registered proceeding against another who chooses to gain a livelihood as one of our profession without any kind of license. The forty-shillings fine looked so well on paper, that I candidly confess I was weak-minded enough to believe it was an honest abstraction from our hard-earned labours, and that we might in future be protected from unregistered and illegal practitioners by the Council who so adroitly had their coffers replenished and their banker's account bear such a respectable appearance. Such, we know too well, is not the case. The Act is a dead letter as regards the protecting power for registered men. May I not ask: Is not the time arriving for petitioning for its alteration; at any rate, that we may not be placed in a worse position than before the Act was passed, if we cannot persuade the legislature to alter it for the better? Facts abundant, I have no doubt, could be brought forward to prove its present uselessness; and the open defiance of those who are practising on the credulity of the public too surely proves the regular practitioner has no chance against his opponent in a court of law.

I am, etc., AN OLD ASSOCIATE.

February 19th, 1863.

#### MEDICAL HEALTH ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

LETTER FROM HENRY GRAMSHAW, ESQ.

SIR,—It gives me much pleasure to find that a subject is broached in your columns this week of the greatest possible importance to by far the majority of the rank and file of the medical profession. I certainly am astonished that the question of health assurance has lain dormant so long, and indulge the hope that Dr. Bryan's letter is the first stroke of the pick, to be followed by simultaneous and united effort on the part of the British Medical Association towards establishing a good Mutual Health Assurance Society.

A few days ago, I had a conversation with Mr. Cubitt

of Norwich on this subject; and he tells me he has been deeply interested in the question for some time past, and possesses much valuable information concerning it. From him I am led to understand that any health assurance society ought to be general; *i. e.*, not entirely confined to the medical profession, but embracing certain other classes also. He likewise states that certain kinds of disease must be excluded (as blindness and insanity), to insure the safe working of a health assurance office; and that no demands must be made for the first twelve months. If, as Dr. Bryan suggests, we had "our worthy founder as treasurer and the present honorary secretaries as a staff, the thing might be done"; but I would venture to suggest that at the very outset we require the opinion of a good actuary; and if the scheme were set afloat, we should require a working board and a good business-like secretary.

I was unfortunate enough, about three weeks ago, to fall from my horse, and was for a short time unable to discharge the duties of my profession. It was some satisfaction to my mind to know I derived a certain amount weekly from the Railway Accident Insurance Company (who met the claim I made upon them with the greatest liberality and fairness); but I could not help reflecting that, whilst I did well to insure against accidents, and well to insure in a life office, I should do still better if I insured against sickness which might come suddenly, and, swamping myself and my income, render me dependent on a world whose wisdom is embodied in the adage, "He that goes a borrowing goes a sorrowing".

I am, etc., HENRY GRAMSHAW.

P.S. I shall be most happy to cooperate with Dr. Bryan in any way, and hope the subject will be mooted at all our Branch meetings this year.

Framlingham, February 1863.

**BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES IN SCOTLAND.** The eighth annual report of the Registrar-General of births, deaths, and marriages in Scotland, just issued, states that the estimated population in 126 town districts for 1862 was 1,610,952, the number of births 60,808 the illegitimate births 5,793, the deaths 41,626, and the marriages 12,557. In 881 county districts the estimated population was 1,459,697, the births 46,330, the illegitimate births 4,441, the deaths 25,593, and the marriages 7,987—thus showing the total estimated population of Scotland to be 3,079,650, the births 107,138, the illegitimate births 10,234, the deaths 67,159, and the marriages 20,544.

**ACCLIMATISATION.** This month's *Bulletin de la Société d'Acclimatation* is not devoid of interest. During 1862 the Nilgau antelopes foaled twice; the lamias, Guanacos yaks, and Angora goats were equally fruitful. The sale of eggs yielded 11,036*l.* The mortality among the live stock in the garden amounted to one-eighth in the mammalia, one-fifth in the birds of the aviary, the same in the category of palmipedes (ducks, swans, etc.), and one-fourth among the poultry. The society has received a letter from Baron Anca, President of the Acclimatization Society of Sicily, wherein he states that some cochineal sent to him by M. Hardy, Director of the Botanical Garden of Algiers, has begun to thrive and multiply on a plant of *Opuntia coccinellifera*, so that the introduction of the insect into Sicily may be considered a certainty. The Marquis de Fournès has been equally successful, at Marseilles, in his experiments on cotton-growing, and has been enabled to send the society three samples of cotton, viz: 1, Louisiana, or short staple; 2, Sea-island cotton, or long staple; 3, the *Kian-nam* quality. M. de Fournès is of opinion that the crop of 1862 is quite equal in quality to that he exhibited in London last summer, and which was considered the third, as to quality, of all the samples from other parts. (*Galignani*.)

## Medical News.

**APOTHECARIES' HALL.** On February 12th, the following Licentiates were admitted:—

Beadles, Arthur, Broadway, Worcestershire  
Bothwell, George Granville, Rathmuller, co. Donegal  
Coombe, L. M., Lying-in Hospital, Dublin  
Lyon, Isidore Bernadotte, 20, Euston Square  
Osmond, Thomas, Thorpe-le-Soken, Essex  
Ryder, Francis James, Royal Kent Dispensary, Greenwich  
Williams, Thomas Edward, St. Bartholomew's Hospital

At the same Court, the following passed the first examination:—

Low, Alexander James, St. Bartholomew's Hospital

Admitted on February 19th:—

Blasson, George John, Billingham  
Mulock, John Berry, London  
Robinson, John, Winterton, Lincolnshire  
Wiglesworth, Arthur, Liverpool  
Wright, Frederick, Stamford Bridge, Yorkshire

At the same Court, the following passed the first examination:—

Ashwell, Edward, Burnham  
Puzey, Chauncy, Guy's Hospital

### APPOINTMENTS.

BRADSHAW, John T., Esq., appointed Consulting-Surgeon to the Huddersfield Infirmary.  
COWELL, George, Esq., appointed Surgeon to the St. George's and St. James's Dispensary.  
DU PASQUIER, Claudius, Esq., appointed Surgeon-Apothecary to the Prince of Wales.  
HUNT, William J., L.R.C.P.Ed., appointed Medical Superintendent of the Hoxton House Lunatic Asylum.  
KIRKWOOD, William, M.D., appointed a Member of the Executive Council of the Bahama Islands.  
SAUNDERS, Edwin, Esq., appointed Surgeon-Dentist to the Prince of Wales.

### POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICE.

CHAMPNEYS, Henry M., Esq., to be Medical Officer for Districts 1 and 2 and the Workhouse of the Battle Union.  
CRICKWAY, Edward, Esq., to be Medical Officer to the Woobly Union Workhouse, Herefordshire.  
GRAYDON, S. J., M.D., to be Medical Officer for the Scotstown District of the Monaghan Union.  
LONGE, Samuel, L.R.C.P.Ed., to be Medical Officer for the Bowling District of the Bradford Union.  
MELLER, Charles M., M.D., to be Medical Officer for the Walham Green District of the Fulham Union.  
RUSSELL, Edward, Esq., to be Medical Officer for the Sixth District of the parish of Liverpool.

### ARMY.

BARKER, Staff-Surgeon F. O., M.D., to be Surgeon 90th Foot, *vice* W. Lapsley.  
CHESTER, Staff-Assistant-Surgeon A., to be Assistant-Surgeon Royal Artillery, *vice* J. F. Longheed.  
CRISP, Surgeon H., M.B., 63rd Foot, to be Staff-Surgeon.  
CROW, Staff-Assistant-Surgeon J., to be Staff-Surgeon, *vice* A. Morphew.  
DAVIDSON, Staff-Assistant-Surgeon P., M.D., to be Assistant-Surgeon 5th Foot, *vice* C. H. Leet.  
HANBURY, Staff-Assistant-Surgeon J. A., M.B., to be Surgeon 63rd Foot, *vice* H. Crisp, M.B.  
JONES, Staff-Surgeon H. H., M.D., to be Surgeon 86th Foot, *vice* J. Sawyers, M.D.  
LAPSEY, Surgeon W., 90th Foot, to be Staff-Surgeon, *vice* F. O. Barker, M.D.  
OAKES, Staff-Assistant-Surgeon F., to be Staff-Surg., *vice* W. Skeen.  
WELD, Staff-Surgeon W. W., to be Surgeon-Major, having completed twenty years full-pay service.

To be Staff-Assistant-Surgeons:—

LEET, Assistant-Surgeon C. H., 5th Foot.  
LONGHURST, A. E. T., M.D., 13th Foot.

### INDIAN ARMY.

DAVIDSON, Deputy Inspector-General H. G., to have the honorary rank of Inspector-General of Hospitals.

### MILITIA.

CRIPPS, E., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon Royal North Gloucestershire Regiment of Militia.

**VOLUNTEERS.** (A.V.—Artillery Volunteers; R.V.—Rifle Volunteers):—

KELLY, F., Esq., to be Surgeon 2nd City of London R.V.  
MORRIS, G. S., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon, 20th North Riding R.V.  
SAMS, J. S. Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon 3rd Kent R.V.